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Iranian Nuclear Proliferation and Sanctions

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Introduction to Research

- This study explores how and why there is a support to increase sanctions in the face of Iranian Nuclear Proliferation even when other alternatives are present.
- Iranian Nuclear Proliferation is an uphill battle that has been fought since the formation of the nuclear program of Iran, formed in the 1950s.
- Iran's first nuclear power plant was opened in 2011 and reached full capacity in 2012
- Normally, there would be conflict over the research of nuclear power seeing as how it is being looked into as a future power source, however the problem lies in the fact that Iran refuses to report to the International Atomic Energy Agency the location and capacities of their enrichment activities for uranium
- Enriched uranium can either be used as reactor fuel or at higher level to develop nuclear weapons.
- United States Involvement
 - The United States has enforced multiple sanctions that the Iranian President has called "Illegal"
 - Iran claims they were forced to resort to this level of secrecy because the sanctions have caused multiple nuclear contracts to fall through.

Sanctions on Nuclear Proliferation

- United Nations Imposed Sanctions
 - First nuclear sanction imposed by the U.S. on Iran was in 2006
 - The United Nations Security Council demanded that Iran suspended all uranium enriching processes
- United Nations Security Council Resolution 1929
 - passed on June 9th, 2010
 - placed travel bans, tightened arms embargo, froze the funds and assets of Iranian Revolutionary Guard, prevented financial services from being used for nuclear activities, and closely watched individuals and entities involved in the Iranian nuclear process.
- Non United Nations imposed sanctions
 - United States imposed an arms ban and an almost total economic embargo.
 - European Union imposed an oil embargo and froze the assets in Iran's Central Bank
 - India imposed a ban on the trade of all products that could aid Iran's nuclear process.
 - Australia imposed financial sanctions and travel bans
- Most other countries have attempted to accommodate the United Nations and the United State's concerns and sanctions

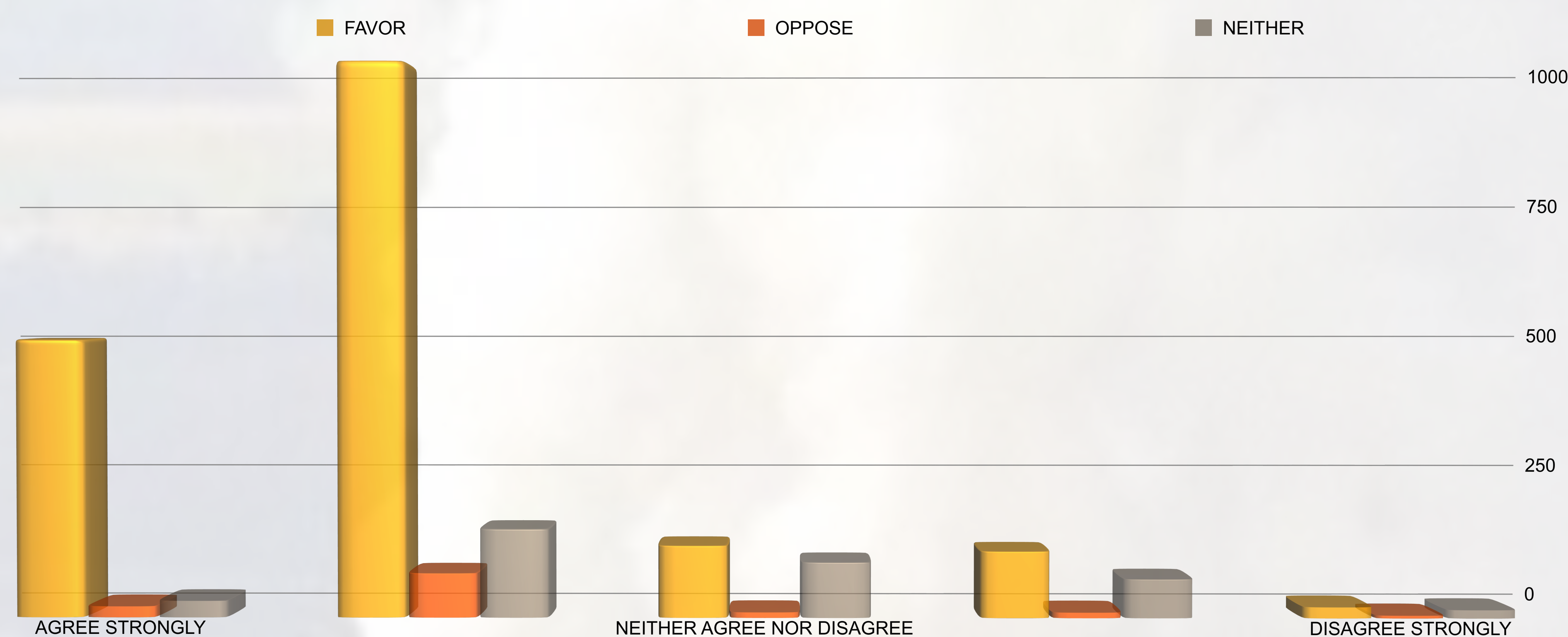
Hypotheses:

H 1: Individuals with a good understanding of the political climate will be more likely to support increasing sanctions.

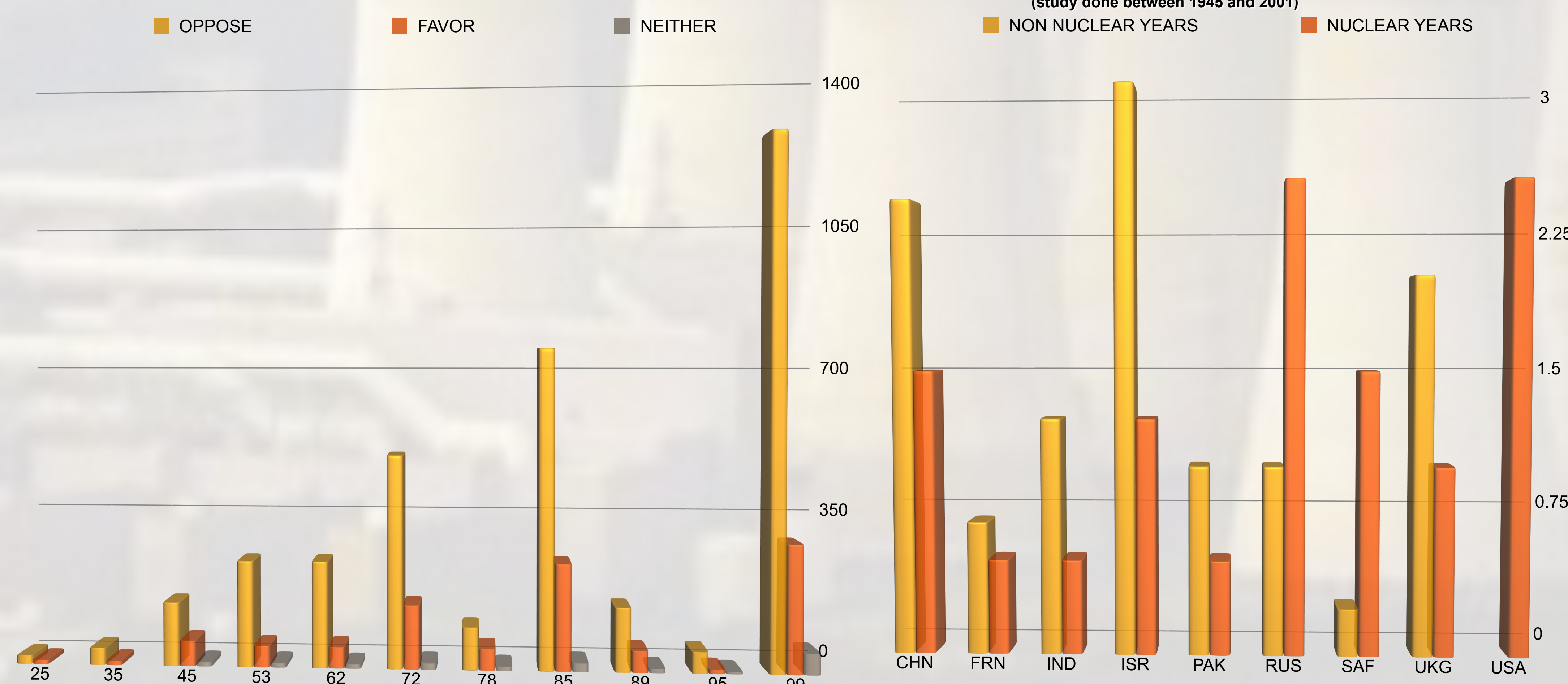
H 2: Individuals who highly support the military will be more likely to support deterring Iranian Nuclear Proliferation through military force.

H 3: If a country accomplished nuclear acquisitions then they will have a higher militarized dispute rate.

H1: Understanding of political climate and Sanctions

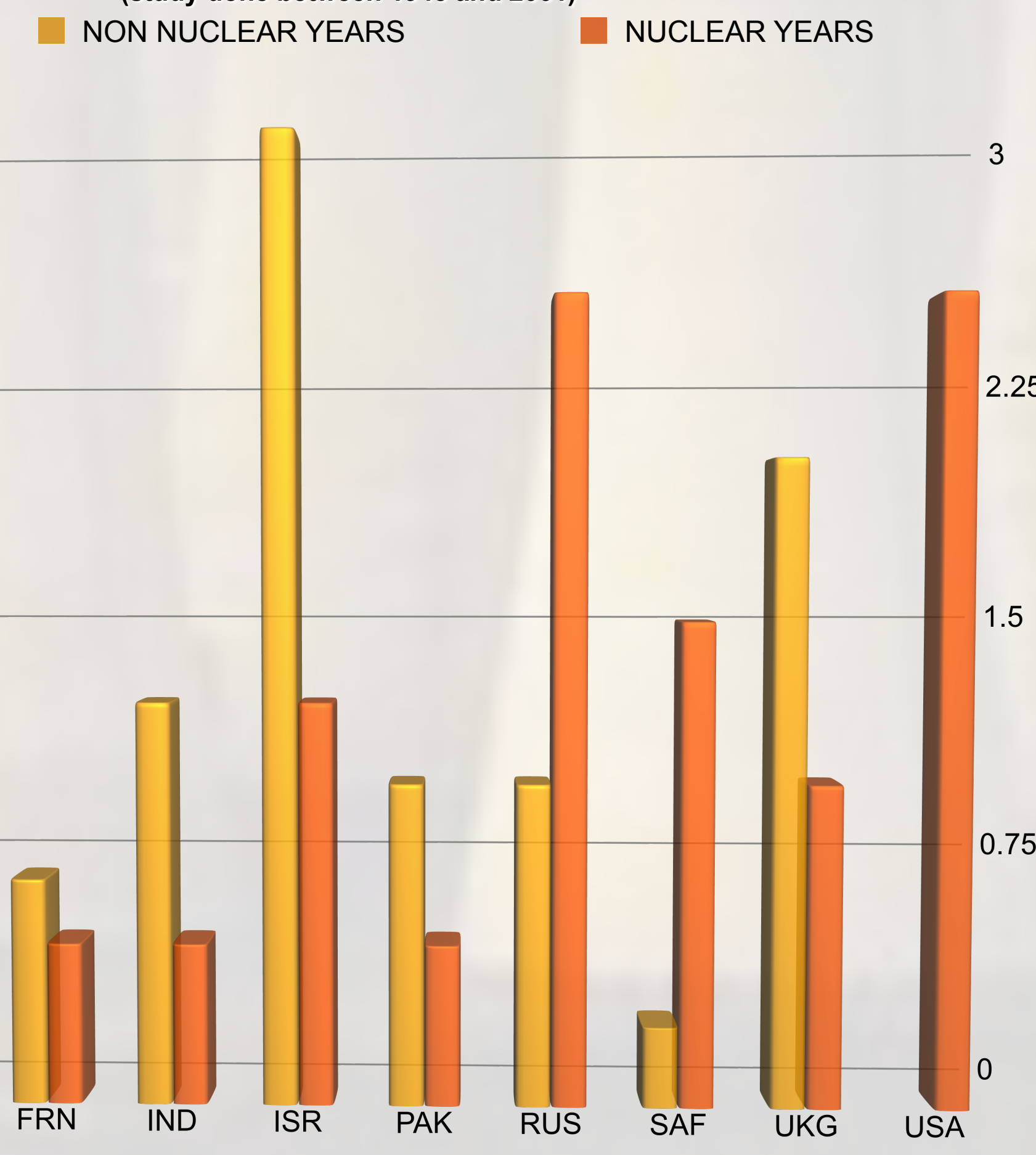


H2: Military support and action



H3: Nuclear acquisition and militarized disputes

(study done between 1945 and 2001)



Findings

H 1: "Understanding of Political Climate and Sanctions"

While the results showed that those with the best understanding of the political climate did not necessarily support sanctions, a majority of those interviewed with an adequate standing did. Those with a strong understanding could be more open to alternatives such as more diplomatic work or militarization.

H 2: Military Support and Action

This data did not turn out as to be expected. What was thought to have happened would be a constant increase in the correlation between Military Support and action. Instead however, those who supported the military the most were directly in opposition to taking military action.

H 3: Nuclear acquisition and militarized disputes

The data from this graph truly appears to be dependent on the country and its attitude about nuclear acquisition. Russia's likelihood to begin militarized disputes after acquisition nearly tripled, while a majority of the other countries saw a mentionable decrease. There is no data for the United States in the non nuclear years, because the study began the same year the U.S. accomplished nuclear acquisition.

Conclusions

- The ultimate fear is that if Iran accomplished nuclear acquisition that they will follow Russia's footsteps and increase their likelihood to begin militarized disputes.
- Seeing as how volatile countries tend to follow this pattern
- Citizens with a good understanding of the political climate disagree on whether or not sanctions are the best way to deter the Iranian Nuclear Process
- Those who support the military do not want to put military action into place
- the nation wants to avoid another large war
- Peaceful sanctions appear to be the most viable and effective way to stop or slow Iranian Nuclear acquisition.
- The sanctions put in place have essentially crippled Iran's economy, due to the fact that so many of the large international trade participants have placed both trade and financial embargoes.
- Countries who were not on the forefront of these embargoes followed the lead of the United Nations, Europe Union, and the United States.
- Although this has not been in the media forefront as often, there is still an ongoing battle between Iran and the rest of the world players.